

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A removable power source, comprising:

a housing ;

a battery disposed within said housing;

an electrical power generator disposed within said housing; and

a power control module disposed within said housing and coupled to said battery and said electrical power generator and arranged to supply power to a machine from either said battery or said generator.

2. The power source of claim 1, wherein said electrical power generator further comprises:

an internal combustion engine; and

an electrical generator coupled to said internal combustion engine.

3. The power source of claim 1, wherein said electrical power generator further comprises a fuel cell.

4. The power source of claim 1, wherein said housing is sized to fit in a compartment for holding a battery of said machine.

5. The power source of claim 4, wherein said housing is removable from the compartment for holding a battery.

6. The power source of claim 2, wherein said internal combustion engine is a spark ignition engine.

7. The power source of claim 2, wherein said internal combustion engine is a compression ignition engine.

8. The power source of claim 2, wherein said internal combustion engine is a rotary engine.

9. The power source of claim 2, wherein said internal combustion engine is a reciprocating engine.

10. A method of replacing a battery in an electric powered machine with a rapidly renewable power source, comprising:

- uncoupling the battery from the machine;
- removing the battery from the battery compartment of the machine;
- placing a rapidly renewable power source in the battery compartment; and
- coupling the rapidly renewable power source to the machine.

11. A method for converting a battery-powered machine to a hybrid powered machine comprising the steps:

- uncoupling the battery from the machine;
- removing the battery from the machine;
- placing a hybrid power source in the battery compartment of the machine; and
- coupling the hybrid power source to the machine.

12. A vehicle, comprising:

- a chassis;
- a wheel rotatably attached to said chassis ;
- an electric motor coupled to said chassis and to said wheel; and
- a power source electrically coupled to said electric motor, said power source comprising;
 - a housing,
 - a battery disposed within said housing,
 - a power control module disposed within said housing and coupled to said battery,
 - and
 - an electrical power generator disposed within said housing and coupled to said power control module.

13. The vehicle disclosed in claim 12 wherein said vehicle is a forklift further comprising

- a lifting mechanism coupled to said chassis.

14. The vehicle disclosed in claim 12 wherein said vehicle is a work platform further comprising a scissor type lifting mechanism coupled to said chassis.

15. The vehicle of claim 12, wherein said housing is removable as a unit.

16. The power source of claim 1, wherein said electrical power generator further comprises:

an external combustion engine; and

an electrical generator coupled to said external combustion engine.

17. The power source of claim 16, wherein said external combustion engine is a gas turbine.